

Agricultural Deer Damage Shooting Permits, 2003

By Bryan Woodbury and Laurie Fike

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is responsible for issuing shooting permits for deer causing damage or nuisance. These permits are one form of abatement used in the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). The purpose of deer damage shooting permits is to reduce ongoing and future damage to agricultural crops by shooting deer in "hotspot" locations, within and outside the regular deer hunting seasons. It is the policy of WDNR that farmers applying for agricultural deer damage shooting permits also enroll in the WDACP.

Methods

Authority to remove wildlife causing damage or nuisance is granted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources by State Statute 29.885. The Department issues shooting permits for deer causing damage and nuisance in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 12.

Results

In 2003, the WDNR issued 667 deer shooting permits, under which 7,160 deer were harvested. Shooting permit harvest constituted 1.5% of the total deer harvest in Wisconsin in 2003. On average, 10.7 deer were harvested under each shooting permit (range 0 - 127) in 2003, compared to an average harvest of 8.5 deer per shooting permit in 2002. The number of shooting permits issued statewide increased for the fourth year in a row (by 18% from 2002 to 2003); statewide shooting permit deer harvest increased 47.7% from 2002 to 2003 (Figure 1). The number of permits issued in 2003 is still just under 84% of 1997 levels, while deer harvested in 2003 is 7% higher than in 1997. The substantially lower numbers of shooting permits issued since 1997 are likely due to implementation of improved regulations for enforcement of hunting access requirements for the WDACP in 1998, as well as above average growing and harvest seasons and lower crop prices since 1997. These factors led to decreased enrollment in the WDACP, and consequently fewer farmers using deer damage shooting permits as an abatement method to reduce damage to their agricultural crops. The increase in deer harvested is likely due to implementation of the new WM40 rule in effect for the first time in 2003.

Counties in which the greatest number of deer shooting permits issued in 2003 were Marinette (52), Green Lake (31), Columbia (31), Burnett (31), and Marquette (30); Table 1. Counties with the largest harvest of deer in 2003 were Marinette (544), Marquette (515), Columbia (449), Marathon (394), Green Lake (377), Adams (321), and Outagamie (305); Table 1.

Deer management units in which the greatest number of deer shooting permits issued in 2003 were 67A (30), 66 (29), 63A (24), 54A (24), 51B (22), and 62A (21); Table 2. Deer management units with the largest harvest of deer in 2003 were 67A (454), 62A (371), 66 (348), 63A (331), 67B (327), and 54A (310); Table 2. Deer harvest increased from 2002 to 2003 in all five regions of Wisconsin: Northern Forest, Eastern Farmland, Central Forest, Southern Farmland and Western Farmland (Table 3).

There was a provision in the new WM40 rule that pertains to the WDACP. This rule requires farmers enrolled in the WDACP who experience \$1000 or more of appraised deer damage is automatically issued a shooting permit by February 15th of the following year. These farmers will have to meet a harvest objective of 80% of the harvest quota by September 15th to be eligible to receive claims. This provision went in effect in 2003. Farmers with appraised deer damage greater than \$1000 in 2002, were automatically issued a shooting permit by February 15th, 2003.

Figure 1. Trends in the number of deer shooting permits issued and deer harvested, 1993-2003. Damage deer harvest data are from the Wisconsin Deer Hunting Summary (prior to 1997) and the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary (1997-1998). Deer harvest data for 1999 through 2003 are based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers issuing deer shooting permits, and may differ from damage harvest data in the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. The number of deer shooting permits issued is based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers.

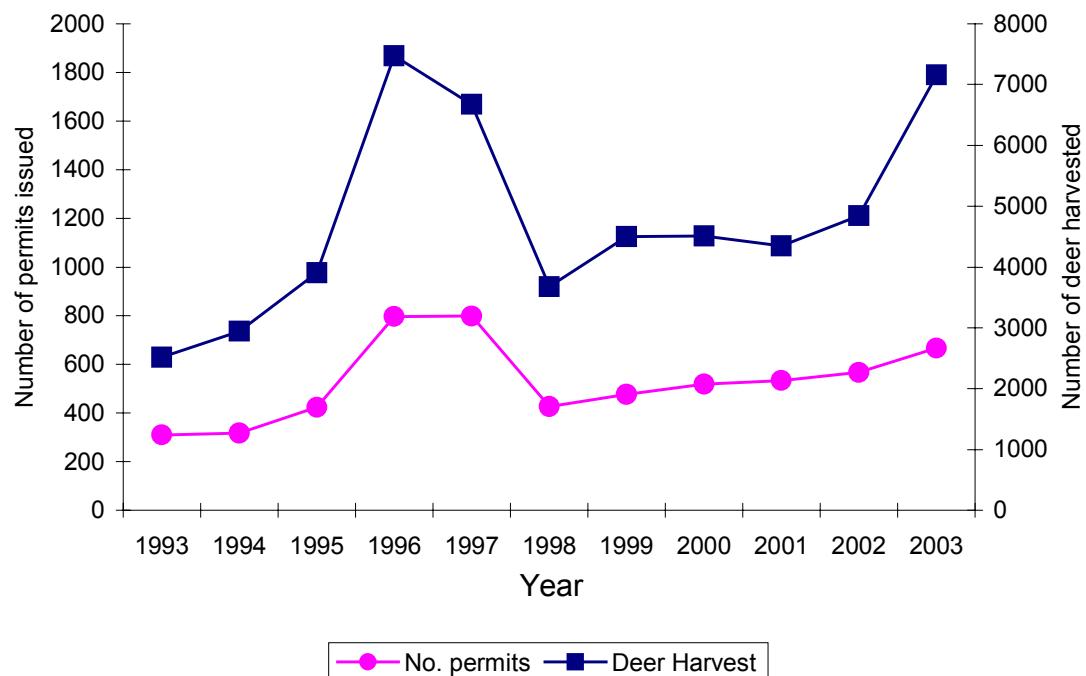


Table 1. Deer shooting permits issued, deer harvest and statewide deer harvest (bow and gun season harvest, and damage harvest), 1998-2003. Shooting permit harvest and statewide harvest data is from the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary (1998). Shooting permit harvest data for 1999-2003 are based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers issuing deer shooting permits, and may differ from damage harvest data in the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. The number of deer shooting permits issued is based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers.

County	2003			2002			2001			2000			1999			1998		
	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest
Adams	23	321	8,303	21	266	6,506	19	185	10,386	21	174	13,604	20	231	10,609	17	212	6,757
Ashland	1	4	5,444	2	4	3,706	1	6	5,482	1	3	7,591	1	0	5,028	0	0	4,233
Barron	8	63	6,676	3	30	5,290	4	30	5,727	4	28	10,195	5	25	7,808	6	30	6,494
Bayfield	12	121	14,244	13	67	9,988	9	67	13,826	10	61	17,185	3	13	11,287	0	* 2	9,926
Brown	7	45	2,870	6	4	1,500	5	25	2,141	3	21	3,034	5	23	2,347	4	* 17	2,409
Buffalo	6	82	9,246	0		7,217	1	10	7,499	2	15	9,618	1	10	8,088	2	* 20	7,320
Burnett	31	261	6,775	25	206	6,830	19	170	6,477	19	154	14,597	23	236	10,076	8	66	8,996
Calumet	3	9	1,442	2	12	954	3	12	1,035	4	19	1,602	5	18	1,468	3	13	1,290
Chippewa	4	19	7,868	8	33	5,196	3	14	7,566	3	6	9,323	2	8	7,398	2	4	6,031
Clark	7	57	13,830	14	85	11,415	8	58	14,475	10	86	17,855	11	105	14,973	4	67	10,421
Columbia	31	449	11,948	29	425	9,381	31	450	9,372	34	534	13,245	32	471	9,810	31	* 277	8,990
Crawford	2	7	3,398	3	8	2,722	4	15	3,115	3	14	4,413	1	4	4,047	2	* 5	4,312
Dane	12	111	7,356	15	79	7,646	10	66	5,713	6	61	6,750	7	85	5,656	12	23	5,500
Dodge	11	85	4,893	10	73	3,304	14	82	2,981	8	38	5,481	6	66	4,553	2	7	3,767
Door	16	105	4,084	15	69	3,328	10	47	4,000	6	26	4,653	6	23	3,883	6	7	3,042
Douglas	1	7	10,004	4	16	7,155	3	17	10,637	4	54	15,543	0	0	10,990	1	25	8,971
Dunn	2	23	6,910	3	23	4,823	0		5,995	2	12	8,976	3	37	6,810	3	26	5,719
Eau Claire	2	8	5,883	2	7	3,762	2	18	6,663	3	49	6,326	1	4	5,660	1	3	4,234
Florence	7	76	3,307	9	70	2,841	11	58	3,549	10	77	6,125	11	95	5,125	8	* 78	2,554
Fond du Lac	12	116	4,680	8	71	3,433	11	98	3,731	13	120	4,852	8	55	4,125	6	* 63	3,273
Forest	0		3,481	0		3,441	0		4,558	0		7,653	0	0	5,653	0	0	3,530
Grant	23	281	8,043	21	113	6,607	16	72	6,235	14	85	8,976	12	77	7,742	14	* 73	6,772
Green	0		3,816	0		2,880	0		2,591	0		2,534	2	0	2,792	0	0	2,189
Green Lake	31	377	5,770	31	340	4,432	25	297	5,045	25	276	6,600	26	325	5,914	30	* 319	5,059
Iowa	17	173	9,430	11	112	10,124	14	116	8,099	17	168	11,561	9	91	8,457	11	143	8,289
Iron	0		2,977	0		2,272	1	0	3,061	2	3	4,622	0	0	3,216	1	* 3	2,664
Jackson	9	82	12,519	4	41	8,459	8	50	9,346	10	61	16,254	8	81	12,914	7	46	10,110
Jefferson	2	3	3,063	2	11	2,282	4	22	2,430	1	5	3,820	3	18	3,087	2	11	3,117
Juneau	10	57	8,134	11	46	5,872	12	52	8,442	10	52	13,843	12	104	10,507	10	102	7,269
Kenosha	1	2	396	0		294	0		319	1	1	503	0	0	443	0	0	533
Kewaunee	1	1	2,422	0		2,014	2	3	2,243	1	1	2,720	2	4	2,094	0	0	1,705
La Crosse	3	28	4,324	5	13	3,342	3	5	4,255	5	32	5,957	6	62	5,209	6	* 41	4,665
Lafayette	0		3,355	0		3,112	0		1,863	1	3	2,589	1	0	2,163	1	2	2,026
Langlade	9	74	5,979	7	47	4,628	4	51	7,071	4	62	8,266	2	27	6,970	1	6	5,019
Lincoln	4	40	7,688	5	50	4,804	3	18	8,451	2	15	10,833	6	28	9,226	1	5	6,992
Manitowoc	9	45	4,120	7	43	2,942	7	18	2,852	8	37	4,275	3	14	3,892	6	18	3,305
Marathon	20	394	16,620	16	234	11,981	19	219	17,824	19	226	20,814	17	230	18,104	9	166	13,232
Marinette	52	544	15,987	42	408	13,736	33	333	16,853	19	209	21,021	15	166	18,067	14	* 151	13,684

Table 1. Continued.

County	2003			2002			2001			2000			1999			1998		
	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest
Marquette	30	515	8,452	23	310	5,915	27	353	7,698	33	387	9,692	25	352	8,193	30	* 337	9,300
Menominee	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milwaukee	0	49	49	7	43	5	0	31	6	29	49	4	30	66	4	0	37	
Monroe	8	49	8,414	9	36	6,066	10	30	7,271	10	56	10,365	14	89	8,485	8	92	7,424
Oconto	8	56	9,598	5	31	8,944	2	15	10,031	1	8	14,837	4	34	11,133	1	14	8,085
Oneida	2	46	10,458	4	59	7,127	7	62	12,667	5	62	17,575	4	70	13,023	6	* 73	11,686
Outagamie	25	305	6,005	26	220	5,114	27	206	5,269	29	209	5,541	23	153	5,009	23	186	3,474
Ozaukee	1	12	1,087	2	633	2	8	754	3	8	1,197	2	23	939	1	0	1,096	
Pepin	1	4	1,751	0	1,668	0	0	1,864	0	0	2,791	1	8	2,025	1	7	1,786	
Pierce	0	3,216	0	2,406	1	6	3,094	0	0	3,724	0	0	3,769	0	0	2,693		
Polk	12	109	9,580	9	86	7,541	5	39	8,690	0	0	15,178	6	40	12,045	6	16	9,775
Portage	20	260	8,788	12	204	6,758	17	219	9,461	13	152	13,039	18	187	11,275	11	* 116	11,171
Price	18	170	9,618	12	154	6,812	5	55	10,467	3	40	12,885	1	10	9,110	2	21	6,393
Racine	0	398	0	306	0	0	365	0	0	488	0	0	474	0	0	402		
Richland	21	122	9,551	13	34	3,187	17	65	4,255	16	65	8,361	13	57	6,122	13	* 59	5,848
Rock	2	24	3,599	1	0	1,905	0	0	2,098	1	5	2,254	1	7	1,783	1	0	2,582
Rusk	4	66	9,575	1	10	6,603	0	0	9,149	0	0	13,334	0	0	9,721	0	0	8,064
Sauk	11	85	14,120	7	50	10,686	14	101	8,860	14	152	13,485	12	125	10,935	16	193	8,737
Sawyer	12	89	9,942	7	42	7,311	5	19	9,644	3	11	12,424	0	0	8,758	1	* 7	6,929
Shawano	6	162	13,202	4	50	11,428	4	49	11,818	3	14	14,512	1	0	12,376	3	25	9,992
Sheboygan	0	2,917	2	3	2,220	2	1	2,562	2	3	3,378	2	2	3,153	4	22	2,787	
St Croix	5	28	3,691	2	15	2,377	1	7	3,060	1	4	4,549	0	0	3,874	0	0	3,005
Taylor	7	71	8,423	0	0	6,206	1	8	8,733	0	0	9,995	0	0	8,629	0	0	6,031
Trempealeau	9	106	8,919	8	89	5,903	8	64	6,459	7	55	9,415	10	99	7,584	10	* 106	6,594
Vernon	5	17	7,397	1	3	5,040	4	18	5,545	2	5	8,955	3	9	7,089	3	15	6,970
Vilas	2	41	9,268	2	26	8,528	2	17	10,063	2	20	14,240	2	22	10,501	5	* 6	9,376
Walworth	3	3	1,281	2	4	921	3	3	1,108	1	0	1,599	1	0	1,375	0	0	1,313
Washburn	13	153	8,485	11	49	7,480	4	25	7,055	8	27	14,082	9	60	10,567	6	* 37	8,882
Washington	3	18	2,599	4	11	1,744	2	12	1,851	5	8	3,076	3	7	2,504	2	1	2,283
Waukesha	3	4	2,025	6	10	1,230	9	16	1,445	7	47	2,274	2	0	1,938	5	15	1,710
Waupaca	8	99	14,758	3	22	12,032	5	41	12,233	3	30	14,592	3	24	13,525	1	6	11,226
Waushara	16	279	9,050	12	204	6,479	9	95	8,285	11	151	9,839	12	100	9,420	11	112	7,852
Winnebago	12	90	3,377	10	60	2,414	11	82	2,825	14	102	2,606	15	152	2,863	10	* 119	2,051
Wood	11	107	7,162	8	58	5,820	6	45	7,751	11	70	11,236	10	102	9,945	6	* 62	7,557
Unknown	0	9	0	10	0	0	23	0	0	16	0	0	8	0	0	45		
Total	667	7,160	484,049	567	4,846	372,076	534	4,345	446,957	519	4,508	615,393	476	4,498	494,407	421	3,678	407,555

*Numbers of damage deer harvested in these counties were adjusted upward based on information from wildlife managers from each county. The number of damage deer harvested from unknown counties was subsequently changed to zero, because the adjustments in damage deer harvest made to individual counties exceeded the original number of damage deer from unknown counties. Adjustments to damage deer harvest data from the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary were made in this table only.

Table 2. Deer shooting permits issued, shooting permit deer harvest, and statewide deer harvest (gun and bow season harvest, and damage harvest) by deer management unit, 1998-2003. Shooting permit harvest and statewide harvest data are from the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary, except where noted. Shooting permit deer harvest data for 1999 - 2003 are based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers issuing deer shooting permits, and may differ from damage harvest data in the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. The number of deer shooting permits issued is based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers.

DMU	2003			2002			2001			2000			1999			1998		
	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest
1	0		1,223	1	7	808	1	0	1,612	2	31	2,034	0		1,454	0	25	1,449
1M	0		490	2	4	72	0		84	0		0	0		0	0		0
2	2	13	4,604	2	9	3,846	3	21	6,454	3	29	7,997	1	6	5,613	0	0	4,104
3	6	18	4,786	8	20	2,434	5	20	4,229	6	21	4,736	2	7	2,535	1	0	2,608
4	0		2,561	0		1,017	1	5	2,034	0		2,317	0		1,648	0	0	1,104
5	0		3,545	1	0	2,539	0		3,986	0		3,964	0		3,106	0	0	2,428
6	5	97	3,592	5	47	2,217	3	43	3,263	3	34	3,691	1	0	2,397	0	0	2,188
7	0		374	0		214	0		360	0		1,594	0		985	0	0	783
8	0		2,473	0		2,938	0		3,255	0		6,165	0		4,119	0	0	3,254
9	0		3,847	0		3,737	1	1	3,602	1	2	6,339	1	9	4,971	1	5	4,789
10	9	76	2,958	8	61	2,020	9	88	2,776	9	76	7,768	16	181	5,386	5	53	4,341
11	16	151	2,803	14	100	4,597	8	50	3,203	8	53	7,593	8	58	4,886	5	25	4,865
12	4	40	2,942	2	10	2,614	2	8	1,935	3	9	3,989	2	9	3,074	0	0	2,514
13	4	24	5,823	2	9	4,016	0		6,006	0		6,798	0		4,468	1	0	3,311
14	4	16	2,441	2	8	1,764	0		2,480	0		3,460	0		2,165	0	0	1,818
15	19	197	5,990	12	94	4,941	8	68	4,503	6	40	8,977	6	42	6,218	3	8	5,121
16	8	52	4,927	7	67	3,873	2	17	5,034	0		7,362	1	9	5,885	4	11	5,289
17	3	17	2,998	2	11	1,720	1	11	2,540	2	8	3,907	3	26	3,507	2	11	2,795
18	7	72	4,713	3	19	2,766	2	10	4,771	1	4	6,267	0		4,458	0	0	4,268
19	3	48	3,625	2	14	3,223	0		3,763	0		5,613	0		3,605	0	0	2,379
20	4	46	3,771	2	45	2,835	1	8	3,208	0		4,904	0		2,815	0	3	2,769
21	2	19	3,404	1	8	2,522	0		3,005	0		4,899	1	2	4,288	0	0	2,928
22	4	36	3,806	2	22	3,383	2	19	3,560	4	28	6,275	3	7	5,115	4	15	4,430
22A	1	23	4,979	2	23	3,476	1	8	3,505	1	11	6,413	3	35	4,533	2	19	3,224
23	1	9	6,126	1	8	3,192	1	3	5,039	0		7,358	1	8	5,706	1	14	5,856
23A	0		20	0		14	0		23	0		4	0		8	0	0	10
24	0		2,290	0		2,208	0		2,008	0		4,625	0		2,850	0	0	1,548
25	9	100	3,943	5	65	2,869	3	37	4,763	2	22	4,021	1	10	3,963	1	8	2,199
26	2	28	4,665	1	10	1,957	1	8	4,752	0		4,087	0		4,177	0	0	3,097
27	2	16	3,172	0		4,768	0		2,472	0		5,441	0		3,574	0	0	2,254
28	0		2,797	0		2,178	2	6	2,692	3	6	4,380	0		2,915	0	0	2,384
29A	0		1,717	1	23	1,147	0		1,920	0		2,067	0		1,596	0	0	1,198
29B	1	12	774	0		521	0		597	1	11	1,174	0		687	4	5	590
30	2	8	1,686	1	4	1,159	1	10	2,161	1	18	3,042	0		1,851	1	10	1,008
31	1	8	2,936	1	2	1,995	2	7	3,706	1	9	5,634	0		3,679	3	20	2,885
32	3	30	3,091	2	17	2,211	1	8	4,921	0		4,589	1	5	4,480	0	0	4,512
33	5	70	2,829	5	57	2,747	4	34	4,176	4	25	3,458	5	34	4,223	2	16	2,189
34	0		1,476	0		1,689	0		1,947	0		2,722	0		2,143	1	1	1,783

Table 2. Continued.

DMU	2003			2002			2001			2000			1999			1998		
	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest
76A	2	4	3,641	2	11	3,612	5	26	3,989	1	5	5,889	3	18	4,925	3	11	4,787
76M-CWD	3	5	1,167	4	3	867	1	3	722	0	1,079	3	58	764	4	1	822	
77A				1	0	1,151	0		1,858	1	5	1,915	1	7	1,538	0	0	2,447
77A-CWD	1	8	3,489	0		594												
77B	4	5	1,256	2	4	1,024	2	0	1,127	2	1	1,778	1		1,448	0	0	1,483
77C	2	7	3,582	4	9	2,300	7	18	2,566	6	43	4,138	1		3,364	2	12	2,735
77D	0		31	0		25	0		22	0		37	0		17	0	0	27
77M	4	24	2,907	14	10	1,731	12	21	1,962	13	41	643	8	53	794	9	4	800
78	0		224	0		187	0		221	0		323	0		241	0	0	223
79	0		2	0		3	0		6	0		5	0		2	0	0	5
80A	6	15	1,599	6	12	1,243	7	22	1,590	4	10	1,820	4	17	1,735	5	7	1,373
80B	11	91	4,636	9	57	3,824	5	28	4,378	3	17	5,220	4	10	3,918	1	0	3,097
80C	0		23	0		36	0		21	0		27	0		37	0	0	25
81	0		295	0		279	0		291	0		367	0		320	0	0	303
82	0		0	0		0	0			0		0	0		0	0	0	0
900	0		20	0		18	0		40	0		30	0		44	0	0	109
FM	0		0	0		0	0		596	0		691	0	0	0	0	0	21
MCC	0		1,089	0		717	0			0		0	0		418	0		444
<i>Total</i>	667	7,160	484,049	567	4846	372,076	534	4,345	446,957	519	4,508	615,393	476	4,498	494,407	421	3,569	407,555

Table 3. Deer shooting permits issued, shooting permit deer harvest, and statewide deer harvest (gun and bow season harvest, and damage harvest) by region, 1998-2003. Shooting permit harvest and statewide harvest data are from the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary, except where noted. Shooting permit deer harvest data for 1999 - 2003 are based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers issuing deer shooting permits, and may differ from damage harvest data in the Wisconsin Big Game Hunting Summary. The number of deer shooting permits issued is based on information collected by the WDACP from wildlife managers.

Region	2003			2002			2001			2000			1999			1998		
	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest	No. permits	Damage harvest	Total harvest
Northern Forest	124	1,269	129,008	104	868	99,489	80	601	138,624	75	615	195,139	65	595	145,161	45	362	114,314
Eastern Farmland	198	2,284	109,162	158	1,494	87,204	152	1,341	103,243	135	1,145	125,818	129	1,128	110,141	99	819	88,530
Western Farmland	74	683	80,588	55	420	58,909	40	294	68,618	41	290	98,980	43	349	80,681	43	289	68,879
Central Forest	56	682	34,534	55	487	24,841	49	358	39,016	58	490	55,104	62	639	42,599	40	436	27,921
Southern Farmland	215	2,242	130,638	195	1,577	101,557	213	1,751	96,758	210	1,968	139,631	177	1,787	115,781	194	1,533	107,780
<i>Total ^a</i>	667	7,160	483,951	567	4,846	372,076	534	4,345	446,957	519	4,508	615,393	476	4,498	494,407	421	3,569	407,555

^a Includes deer harvested from unknown regions.